

REMARKS

Claims 11-25 are pending in this application, of which claims 11, 14, 15 and 21 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 11-25 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,430,303 to Matsumoto et al. (hereinafter “**Matsumoto et al.**”).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Matsumoto et al. discloses an exposure apparatus comprising a light source emitting light of the ultraviolet region; an illuminating system for introducing the light from the light source into a mask bearing a predetermined pattern; an exposure unit for forming the image of the mask pattern on a photosensitive substrate; a chamber accommodating the light source, the illuminating system and the exposure unit; and an impurity eliminating device for eliminating at least an organic impurity inducing a photochemical reaction with the light of the ultraviolet region.

Oxygen in air is formed into ozone by irradiation of UV light, and this ozone gas decomposes and ionizes floating matters in the atmosphere. As a means to suppress deposition of ionized particles on optical materials, **Matsumoto et al.** discloses covering a wall surface of a shield member and a metal surface of a supporting member with a dielectric material.

Matsumoto et al. also discloses that filters for eliminating impurities such as ions, gases, organic silanol, etc., are provided at an external air inlet for air in a clean room and an air circulating path of an air conditioning system for air-conditioning in a chamber.

Matsumoto et al. fails to disclose that an ozone removing filter is disposed in a

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/989,176

circulation passage of a gas circulating in an area including a light path of exposure light, and is adapted to remove ozone from the circulating gas, as recited in the amended claims of the instant application.

Thus, the 35 USC §102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 11-25, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP


William L. Brooks
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/mla
Atty. Docket No. **970259B**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
H:\HOME\etitia\WLB\97\970259B\amendment jun 2003